1	2	3	4
18.	Tripura	1	Agartala
19.	Uttar Pradesh	4	Meerut, Lucknow (2 SPTLs) and Varanasi
20.	Uttarakhand	1	Rudrapur
21.	West Bengal	1	Midnapore
22.	Pondicherry	1	Pondicherry
	TOTAL:	55	

National policy for regulating prices of medicines

154. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new national pharmaceuticals policy to regulate the prices of vital medicines has been finalized; and

(b) if so, the names of essential drugs likely to be cheaper as a result of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Selling of medicines at higher prices

155. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several drug companies have been found to be selling medicines at higher prices to consumers; and

(b) if so, the names of such companies so far identified and the steps Government propose to take to prevent such overcharging and to penalize the concerned companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 the prices of 74 bulk drugs included in its Scheduled I and the formulation containing any of those Scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA/Govt. fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/ formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than that price fixed by NPPA/Govt.

In respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers are free to fix the prices by themselves without seeking approval of Government/NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like

the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of exepients, cost of R and D, cost of utilities/packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. The Government takes corrective measures as per para 10(b) of DPCO, 1995 where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

As a result of constant monitoring of the prices of medicines by NPPA, a number of drug companies have been found to be selling medicines at a higher price to consumers. In such cases, NPPA initiates action against the companies to recover the overcharged amount from them as per the provisions of the DPCO 1995. Since the inception of NPPA in August 1997 till 31st May, 2009, NPPA has raised demands for overcharging against 471 Pharma companies. The names of these companies are available at NPPA website *www.nppaindia.nic.in.*

Pharma export

156. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to give stimulus to the pharma exports from the country;

(b) whether Government has taken cognizance of the recent cases of trade mark violations by the Chinese spurious drug exports; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government at the multilateral forums to protect Indian pharma exports from such unfair practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) With a view to boost the export and earn foreign exchange, duty free import of raw materials required for production is allowed alongwith neutralization of taxes and duties as per provision of Foreign Trade Policy. Besides under Market Access Initiative and Marketing Development Assistance Scheme financial assistance is given to exporters for promotion of exports. For promotion of pharmaceuticals exports, assistance is also provided to exporters through Pharma Export Promotion Council, particularly aiming at Small and Medium Enterprises.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has requested its Mission in Beijing to take up the matter with concerned Chinese authorities. The Government of India has also conveyed to the Ambassador of China in New Delhi its serious concern on the damage caused to India's name and reputation in Africa, on account of the misdeeds of some of its citizens. The matter is being followed up with both Embassy of India, Beijing and Embassy of China. New Delhi, on the follow up action taken by the Chinese authorities.

High Commissioners of Indian Missions in Africa have also been apprised of these developments and requested to be extra vigilant.